
CURRENT TRENDS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE**Jagadeesh Nerlekar¹ & Munianjinappa K.²**

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ABSTRACT:

English literature has continuously evolved in response to cultural, social, and technological changes across the world. In recent decades, the field has witnessed the emergence of new literary genres and digital modes of expression that reflect contemporary human experiences. Diversity and inclusivity have become central concerns, with marginalized voices, Dalit writing, diasporic narratives, and LGBTQ+ perspectives gaining prominence. Alongside these developments, digital platforms have transformed literary production and reception through blogging, micro-fiction, social media poetry, TEDx talks, podcasts, and travel vlogs. The fusion of multiple genres, such as science fiction, fantasy, and historical fiction, has encouraged innovative storytelling, while short forms like micro-fiction respond effectively to reduced attention spans in the digital age. New thematic areas such as autofiction, climate fiction, and mental health narratives highlight the growing interest in personal identity, ecological consciousness, and emotional wellbeing. Digital literature further expands narrative possibilities through hypertext fiction, interactive storytelling, electronic poetry, multimedia narratives, narrative video games, and algorithmic literature. These forms redefine the relationship between authors and readers by encouraging participation, empathy, and creative engagement. This paper examines current trends in English literature with particular emphasis on digital storytelling and emerging genres, arguing that technology has not diminished the human essence of literature but has enriched its expressive potential and widened its cultural reach.

KEYWORDS:

Digital Literature, Autofiction, Climate Fiction, Micro-fiction,
Social Media Writing.

Introduction

Nowadays, new genres of writing in English have become popular because the present generation prefers digital literature over traditional methods of writing and reading. Contemporary writers have also changed their mindset and adopted social media and digital forms of writing such as TEDx speeches, podcasts, tweeting, blogging, travel writing, poems, stories, micro-fiction, and various other literary forms introduced through social media and digital platforms.

TEDx Talks present individuals' perspectives on a wide range of subjects. The primary aim of TEDx Talks is to promote social awareness and address issues related to education, gender, technology, science, war, and peace across the world.

YouTube narratives have become popular nowadays. Many youngsters explore unheard issues in society. These stories could be from the dark side of human sufferings and miseries. Travel stories were popular in olden days, but the present generation could get information about a place at their fingertips. Technology has made people get closer and experience human life live and joyful. One who captures the places, people, wildlife, culture, tradition, and many more things. They are called YouTubers. Visuals and scene capturing with live portray of people gives a wonderful experience. This form of live, visual, and experiential narration presented through digital platforms is known as travel vlogging, a significant branch of digital literature that blends travel writing with multimedia storytelling.

Another genre of writing is micro-fiction, a very short form of storytelling that uses simple words to convey a message or evoke

laughter. Stories can be narrated in just six words, covering genres such as science, horror, romance, or humor. Micro-fiction works especially well on social media because it suits short attention spans, is highly shareable, and encourages creativity and reader interaction.

Most of us use social media, making it an easy and accessible platform for everyone. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram poems are a current trend. These poems are brief, usually consisting of 20 to 50 words. The purpose of writing digital poems is to connect with people and draw attention to current social and economic issues. Facebook poems often reflect quiet emotions and everyday truths. Lines such as “Some days, I don’t chase the sun. I just sit and let the light find me” capture moments of stillness and self-acceptance. Similarly, “You didn’t change my world; you made it feel like home” speaks to love not as disruption, but as belonging. These poems are short, gentle, and deeply personal, reminding us that even quiet hearts can create the deepest echoes, and that softness is not a weakness, but a form of strength shaped by resilience.

Social media stories today are powerful narratives drawn from personal life experiences, business journeys, travel memories, and countless other subjects. What makes these stories unique is their style of expression—combining thoughtful words with graphics, visuals, audio, and video to create immersive experiences. Background scenes, often generated through AI and modern technology, enhance emotional impact and bring stories to life in ways that were once unimaginable.

Animated stories, in particular, have gained immense popularity in recent times. Their dynamic visuals, smooth transitions, and engaging soundscapes capture attention quickly and resonate strongly with younger audiences. By blending storytelling with innovation, these animated and AI-driven stories transform simple moments into compelling digital narratives that inform, inspire, and connect. Twitter discourse has emerged as a highly influential

medium for public engagement, particularly in raising awareness of social and international issues. The platform functions as a connective space where individuals and communities narrate realistic experiences and events, thereby shaping public opinion. Such narratives have the potential to promote social consciousness, encourage civic participation, and contribute to transformative change within society.

1. Autofiction

Definition: Autofiction is a literary genre that blends personal life experiences with fictional elements. It merges autobiography with narrative invention, allowing writers to explore both their lived experiences and imaginative possibilities.

Key Features:

- Combines personal narratives with creative liberties.
- Explores psychological, emotional, or existential questions beyond strict factual truth.
- Often written in an intimate, diary-like style that invites readers into the author's inner world.
- Creates a sense of authenticity while allowing for narrative freedom.

Digital Adaptation:

- Autofiction translates naturally to digital platforms, including blogs, social media, and short video storytelling.
- Writers can share fragments of their inner world through vlogs, visual diaries, or social media threads.
- It encourages engagement through relatability and emotional depth, resonating with audiences interested in personal and reflective storytelling.

2. Climate Fiction (Cli-Fi)

Definition: Climate fiction focuses on the impact of climate

change and environmental issues, often exploring the relationship between humans and nature.

Key Features:

- Highlights environmental degradation, ecological interconnections, and the consequences of climate change.
- Combines storytelling with real-world awareness, often inspiring reflection or action.
- Can range from near-future speculative fiction to contemporary narratives rooted in current environmental crises.

Digital Adaptation:

- Digital storytelling can include short films, animations, infographics, and interactive web experiences.
- Example: The Overstory by Richard Powers uses narratives about trees and human relationships with nature to explore ecological awareness.
- Social media platforms or video series can simplify complex environmental issues while creating emotional engagement.

3. Mental Health and Wellbeing

Definition: Content focusing on mental health explores emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing. It helps audiences understand themselves better and encourages reflection, growth, and resilience.

Trends:

- Audiences are increasingly curious about self-care, mindfulness, and coping strategies.
- Personal stories or narratives have a strong appeal, creating a sense of connection and relatability.

Digital Adaptation:

- Videos, podcasts, and interactive content can provide tips, personal narratives, or guided reflections.
- Overlaps naturally with autofiction, as sharing personal experiences (even partially fictionalized) can foster empathy and awareness.

Synergies Across Themes

- Autofiction + Mental Health: Fictionalized personal stories allow creators to explore vulnerability, trauma, or growth in a compelling way.
- Climate Fiction + Mental Health: Addresses eco-anxiety, grief for environmental loss, and emotional responses to climate change.
- Digital Platforms: Short videos, social media series, and interactive storytelling are ideal for engaging audiences with these themes, offering both emotional resonance and educational value.

Stories have always been a mirror of human experience, a way for people to explore emotions, ethics, and imagination. With the rise of digital technology, literature has evolved beyond printed pages into interactive, multimedia, and computational forms. Digital literature, or electronic literature, is not just text on a screen; it is a human-centered exploration of storytelling, where readers become participants, creators, and co-narrators of meaning. This paper explores the diverse forms of digital literature, emphasizing their humanistic dimensions.

1. Hypertext Fiction

Hypertext fiction allows readers to navigate stories through linked passages, creating personalized narrative paths. Unlike linear books, hypertext reflects the human experience of choice and interpretation. Each decision a reader makes mirrors the way we

construct meaning in life.

2. Interactive Fiction

Interactive fiction places readers in the role of protagonist, where their decisions directly influence the story. This form cultivates imagination, empathy, and problem-solving, as readers engage with characters and environments on a deeply personal level.

3. Electronic Poetry (E-Poetry)

Electronic poetry integrates visual, auditory, and kinetic elements, transforming static verses into dynamic experiences. This form allows readers to feel poetry as performance, emphasizing emotion, perception, and creativity.

4. Multimedia Narratives

These narratives combine text, images, audio, and video, creating a multi-sensory storytelling experience. By appealing to multiple senses, multimedia narratives mirror real-life perception, offering readers a richer connection to the story.

5. Narrative Video Games

Video games with strong narrative focus allow players to make choices that affect characters and outcomes. This form fosters empathy, ethical reflection, and identity exploration, as players engage in stories where their decisions have consequences.

6. Generative / Algorithmic Literature

Algorithmic literature explores collaboration between humans and machines. Stories are generated or altered by algorithms, producing novel, unpredictable narratives that challenge traditional ideas of creativity.

7. Social Media and Networked Storytelling

Stories on platforms like Twitter, Instagram, or collaborative websites evolve through community participation. This reflects

collective consciousness, where narratives are shaped by shared human experience and real-time interaction.

8. Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) Literature

Immersive AR and VR narratives allow readers to physically navigate story worlds, feeling space, emotion, and perspective as characters do. This form emphasizes embodiment and experiential understanding of stories.

Blogging, also known as online journal or article writing, has become one of the most popular ways to share information and express opinions on the internet. In today's digital age, people rely heavily on online platforms to learn about various topics, from travel destinations and local businesses to public figures and global events. Blogs provide a space where individuals can offer insights, reviews, and critiques, giving readers a chance to form their own perceptions before making decisions. With just a few clicks, anyone can access a wealth of information and perspectives from different sources, making blogging an essential tool for communication, education, and entertainment in modern society.

Blogs can be classified into several types based on their purpose, content, and authorship. Personal blogs are maintained by individuals to share their thoughts, experiences, or daily life, such as *The Pioneer Woman*, which chronicles personal stories and recipes. Professional or corporate blogs are created by companies or experts to provide industry insights, promote services, or engage customers, like the *HubSpot Blog* or *Google Blog*. Niche blogs focus on a specific topic or interest, targeting a particular audience, for example, *Nomadic Matt* for travel enthusiasts. Microblogs offer very short, quick updates or multimedia content, such as *Twitter/X* or *Tumblr*, allowing for rapid communication with followers. In group blogs, multiple authors contribute to the same blog, providing diverse perspectives and frequent updates, as seen in *TechCrunch* or *Moz Blog*. Collaborative or community blogs allow broader participation from a community of contributors, like *Medium* or

certain Reddit blogs. Some blogs, known as affiliate blogs, aim to generate income by promoting products or services through affiliate links, such as Smart Passive Income. Finally, video blogs or vlogs primarily use video content to engage audiences, examples being Casey Neistat or educational YouTube channels. Each type of blog serves unique purposes, from personal expression and community building to marketing and monetization.

Conclusion

Digital literature demonstrates that storytelling is inherently human, even when mediated by technology. Whether through interactivity, multimedia, or immersive environments, digital literature engages readers as active participants, encouraging empathy, creativity, and reflection. In the age of screens and algorithms, it reminds us that the essence of literature lies in human connection. Combining autofiction, climate fiction, and mental health themes offers a unique digital storytelling approach that is personal, socially conscious, and emotionally engaging. This strategy can attract audiences who seek introspective content, ecological awareness, and mental health guidance through creative and relatable formats.

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